DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration
Rockville MD 20857

APR 28 2008

Re: TEKTURNA
Docket No.: 2007E-0256

The Honorable Jon Dudas
Undersecretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property
Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office
Mail Stop Hatch-Waxman PTE
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Director Dudas:

This is in regard to the application for patent term extension for U.S. Patent No. 5,559,111, filed by Novartis Corporation, under 35 U.S.C. § 156 et seq. We have reviewed the dates contained in the application and have determined the regulatory review period for TEKTURNA (aliskiren hemifumarate), the human drug product claimed by the patent.

The total length of the regulatory review period for TEKTURNA (aliskiren hemifumarate) is 2,023 days. Of this time, 1,637 days occurred during the testing phase and 386 days occurred during the approval phase. These periods of time were derived from the following dates:

1. The date an exemption under subsection 505(i) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act involving this drug product became effective: August 22, 2001.

   FDA has verified the applicant's claim that the date the investigational new drug application became effective was on August 22, 2001.

2. The date the application was initially submitted with respect to the human drug product under section 505 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act: February 13, 2006.

   FDA has verified the applicant's claim that the new drug application (NDA) for TEKTURNA (aliskiren hemifumarate) (NDA 21-985) was initially submitted on February 13, 2006.

3. The date the application was approved: March 5, 2007.

   FDA has verified the applicant's claim that NDA 21-985 was approved on March 5, 2007.

This determination of the regulatory review period by FDA does not take into account the effective date of the patent, nor does it exclude one-half of the testing phase as required by 35 U.S.C. § 156(c)(2).

Please let me know if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely yours,

Jane A. Axelrad

Jane A. Axelrad
Associate Director for Policy
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research

cc: Gregory D. Ferraro
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